

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Cambridge, Thursday. My dear Alec:

Many thanks for the telegram received this morning. I only hope you do not think I needed it to assure me I was not forgotten. I would doubt myself a hundred times over first.

I arrived safely yesterday after a very pleasant journey, and found Sister waiting for me. She had such a tale of sorrow. Mamma was not there because she had gone to Mrs. Lane's funeral, and Sister said Mr. Lane was very ill of pneumonia, the same thing that carried off his wife. Gardiner Lane was dangerously sick of the same, and Louisa too was in bed. Auntie came home Tuesday and yesterday was summoned home to New York by the illness of one of the servants. She has paralysis of the brain and is very low. She has been in the family ever since I can remember, and we are all very fond of her.

At home we are all well, Berta has gone to Narragansett Pier on a visit to one of her school friends, Grandma is "very smart" and comes to dinner and tea. Grandpa is wheeling her about the piazza both enjoying the cool breeze that tempers the warmth of the August sun.

I have bad — well in plain English an earache — I decidedly object however to having it called so, it is so plebeian. Did you see the text to a picture in Punch. One groom says to another what is the matter with his master? "O he's got a bronchial affection," if it was you or me Bill it'd be called a cold." That is just my case. The water at Sconset and the cold hurt me and today Mamma took me to Dr. Blake's, it will be all right in a few hours. Dr. Blake said you must not fail him at Philadelphia. He does not want you to write at all only make a speech and that you can do easily. I really think you ought to go. You thought you would have to write the speech, and then it was hard, but you can speak so easily.

Library of Congress

Do you know I wish you would close with Mr. William, Papa thinks you would enjoy it and make a great deal of money. He does not want you to devote yourself to lecturing, but a little would do no harm and may be well. Grandpa thinks it would give you a reputation and says he believes electricity would be very "taking." We none of us like that advertisement, but cannot you arrange about that, you know I never quite liked you going up so suddenly. Cannot you now reconsider your decision?

I heard from Aunt Fannie today, Willie still very weak. You have found time to write to him, haven't you. I miss you dreadfully, though I have come home and am with my own sweet Motherling, it is not quite enough. It seems impossible that you have only just begun your visit home. Every one here misses you very much, Mamma asks several times a day when is Alec coming back, as if I know. Stay as long as you can, we have had you for so long it is but fair you should have your own friends and they you.

With very much love to you and to all,

Lovingly, Mabel.